

Administrative Assistant Lisa Hergert are here. Kelli, Joe and Tommy Hergert are all under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Thank you. Senator Hall, your light is next.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, and members, again I rise in opposition to the motion to reconsider and I take exception, although I understand Senator Withem's position, I take exception to his comments. Because, frankly, Senator Withem, I have kept my word to Senator Haberman. If Senator Haberman can't understand English, that is not my fault. The issue of germaneness is one that was never approached by him to me. He never asked me about that. I never objected to him speaking in opposition to the amendment when it was before us. He never pushed his button, not even to ask is this amendment going to be withdrawn. What I explained to him was this, that there was a motion up there to divide the question. Senator Chambers had put that up there, that if we were going to get into a protracted debate about the issue of dividing the question, the various parts, that I would withdraw that. I also spoke to the Clerk and said the same thing and he said, well, once it's divided, you're going to have a little difficulty. And I said, I will have to withdraw each part. I said the same thing to Senator Chambers. My position has been very clear. The only one whose opinion of it is clouded is Senator Haberman's. He did not think it necessary to speak to the bill, to the amendment when it was before us. He did not question germaneness which was clearly his prerogative. Based on nothing that I said to him could he have drawn a conclusion that he now is under that he was somehow cheated out of an opportunity to speak to this issue. He now chooses, after the adoption of the amendment, to delay the body's time. I have never done that and this amendment has been on file, I believe, since something like March 13th. It is not new to the body. Granted, it was not prioritized. It could have been taken care of in approximately 55 minutes which is about the amount of time it took to adopt the amendment. We could have had debate on it. Those opposed to it could have made their pitch instead of waiting to walk through some ridiculous motions of referring it back to committee. This is a legitimate motion. I said that when I first stood to oppose it. Ron, I understand the tough position you're in. I don't like this any better than you do. But we adopted the amendment. Senator Haberman didn't speak to it. He didn't stand once to oppose it. Now he stands up and offers motions to reconsider. He offers motions to return. He offers